

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants now submit this preliminary amendment for the purpose of presenting claims 42-72 similar to claims 8-12 subject to a restriction requirement in parent application, USSN 09/671,304 (the '304 application) filed September 28, 2000. Original claims 1-41 are cancelled. The '304 application claimed the benefit of US Provisional Application No. 60/156,452, filed September 28, 1999, the title being, "Method of Indexed Storage and Retrieval of Multidimensional Information." As a result of the restriction requirement, Applicants have amended the title to conform with the restricted set of claims to "A Method of Partitioning Data Records." If the Examiner wishes to propose a different title, the Examiner is invited to suggest such title.

Applicants now present new claims 42-72 directed at data record partitioning and suggest the Examiner direct attention to the following support in the specification as originally filed: pages 3-5 for general concepts, pages 12-13 for applications of the invention in forensic and other fields, page 14 for the two types of partitioning at the nodes: entropy-adjacency and data clustering using multivariate statistical analysis; pages 16-23 for a detailed discussion of examples of entropy/adjacency partitioning; pages 23-46 for a detailed of examples of multivariate statistical analysis and pages 46-47 provide a performance analysis. The Examiner is also directed to Figures 1-28 as referenced in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 202-824-3119. Applicants look forward to prompt examination on the merits.

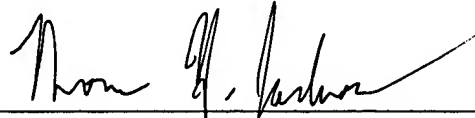
Should the Commissioner find that a fee is due for this preliminary amendment, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fee, except the issue fee, to Deposit Account 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2004

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